

Meeting Date: November 15, 2007

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Mule Deer Plan

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Randy Smith/Brad Compton

Background:

Species management plans provide overall direction to the Department, and functionally represent “action plans” referenced in the Department strategic plan (*The Compass*). Species management plans don’t have statutory or administrative rule authority, but do represent Commission policy and provide guidance to the Department on developing administrative rule recommendations.

In 2006 the Department began revising the State Mule Deer Management Plan. Central to this revision was a statewide mule deer hunter survey conducted by the University of Idaho. Results from the public survey were used to draft proposed statewide direction for mule deer management. Incorporating input from regional public meetings (‘sounding boards’), the Department has developed a draft for Commission review prior to soliciting input from a broader public.

The draft will be sent to each Commissioner prior to the November meeting.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

The statewide mule deer hunter survey provided the initial opportunity for public involvement. Additionally, the Department has hosted several regional meetings (‘sounding boards’) to solicit feedback for preparation of the draft management plan. The Department also hosted a Mule Deer Workshop in Pocatello, with many of the comments used to shape the draft plan. Upon release to the general public, the Department will solicit input via regional meetings and the web site.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve releasing the draft mule deer management plan for general public review and comment. Staff will prepare a final draft ready for Commission adoption at the January 2008 meeting.

Justification:

To provide the Commission with an early preview of the draft mule deer management plan, and to seek approval to release the draft plan for additional public comment.